

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

DIA

DA

CINCPACAF

CINCUSARPAC

COMUSTDC

CG US FORCES KOREA

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 8777

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (ETEXT)

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

DIA FOR DI4

DA FOR DAMI-FIE

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJ: A QUICK LOOK AT THE NEW CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY
CONSTITUTION

REF: HONG KONG 8775,8776

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SUMMARY: CHANGES IN THE NEW PARTY CONSTITUTION REFLECT CURRENT PRC

PRIORITIES AND PRACTICES IN THE INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC FIELDS.
END SUMMARY

1. A QUICK PRELIMINARY COMPARISON OF THE NEW PARTY CONSTITUTION WITH THE 1969 VERSION (A MORE COMPREHENSIVE AND THOROUGH ANALYSIS WILL BE FORTHCOMING AS NECESSARY) HIGHLIGHT SEVERAL CHANGES. THE NEW CONSTITUTION HAS LESS OF THE CULT OF MAO, EXCISES LIN PIAO BY NOT MENTIONING HIM AT ALL AND PROVIDES FOR NO SUCCESSION. LIKE ITS PREDECESSOR IT IS A SHORT DOCUMENT. SEVERAL OF THE CHANGES WERE DIRECTLY REFERRED TO OR ADUMBRATED BY WANG HUNG-WEN IN HIS REPORT TO THE CONGRESS (REFTELS) AND OCCUR IN THE GENERAL PROGRAMME CHAPTER.

2. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS: IN THE 1969 VERSION A SENTENCE THAT DECLARED "MAO TZE TUNG THOUGHT IS MARXISM-LENINISM OF THE ERA IN WHICH IMPERIALISM IS HEADING FOR TOTAL COLLAPSE AND SOCIALISM IS ADVANCING TO WORLD-WIDE VICTORY" HAS BEEN DELETED FROM THE PASSAGE DEALING WITH THE PARTY'S THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS. THIS IS CONSISTENT WITH CURRENT DESIRE TO DOWNPLAY PRONOUNCEMENTS (A) WHICH INTERNATIONALLY MAY SMACK OF "GREAT-POWER CHAUVINISM" AND (B) WHICH WERE PART OF THE LIN PIAO SPONSORED EXHALTATION OF MAO. SIGNIFICANTLY A NEW PHRASE DECLARING THAT THE PARTY "OPPOSES GREAT-POWER CHAUVINISM" IS INTRODUCED FOR THE FIRST TIME. THE FORMULATION IN THE NEW DOCUMENT THAT COMBINES THE US AND THE USSR TOGETHER UNDER THE RUBRIC OF "THE HEGEMONISM OF THE TWO SUPERPOWERS" IS COUPLED WITH A MODIFICATION OF THE PRC ROLE WHICH SIMPLY CALLS FOR THE "OVERTHROW OF ALL REACTION" RATHER THAN "REACTIONARIES OF ALL COUNTRIES." THESE CHANGES BRING THE PARTY DOCUMENT INTO LINE WITH CURRENT PRC FOREIGN AFFAIRS POSTURES. SIMILARLY, THE TERM "MODERN REVISIONISM" USED TO REFER TO THE SOVIETS IN THE 1969 VERSION ARE SUPERSEDED BY "SOCIAL IMPERIALISM."

3. DOMESTIC: THE NEW CONSTITUTION GIVES EVEN GREATER MENTION TO THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION, DECLARING THAT IT PREVENTED CAPITALIST RESTORATION AND CONSOLIDATED THE DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT. IT DECLARES "REVOLUTIONS LIKE THIS WILL HAVE TO BE CARRIED OUT MANY TIMES IN THE FUTURE." THE DOCUMENT ALSO MENTIONS THAT THE PARTY "...MUST TRAIN MILLIONS OF SUCCESSORS FOR THE CAUSE OF PROLETARIAN REVOLUTION, SO AS TO ENSURE THAT THE PARTY'S CAUSE WILL ADVANCE FOREVER ALONG THE MARXIST LINE." THIS IS THE CLOSEST
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THE NEW CONSTITUTION COMES TO ADDRESSING THE SUCCESSION QUESTION. AS WANG STATED IN HIS REPORT, THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ROLE OF CRITICISM IN THE PARTY IS UNDERSCORED BY THE INCLUSION IN THE ARTICLE ON PARTY ORGANIZATION OF THE SENTENCE "IT IS ABSOLUTELY IMPERMISSIBLE TO SUPPRESS CRITICISM AND TO RETALIATE."
A NEGATIVE SOUNDING COMMENTARY OF THE STATE OF AFFAIRS IN THE PARTY IS REFLECTED IN THE NEW CONSTITUTION'S ADDITION OF THE INJUNCTION "COMRADES THROUGHOUT THE PARTY MUST HAVE THE REVOLUTIONARY SPIRIT

OF DARING TO GO AGAINST THE TIDE, MUST ADHERE TO THE PRINCIPLES OF PRACTICING MARXISM AND NOT REVISIONISM, WORKING FOR UNITY AND NOT FOR SPLITS, AND BEING OPEN AND ABOVEBOARD AND NOT ENGAGING IN INTRIGUES AND CONSPIRACY..." A NOD IS ALSO GIVEN TO THE NECESSITY OF HAVING A BROADLY BASED PARTY BY EMPHASIS IN THE CHAPTER ON PARTY ORGANIZATION TO "THE PRINCIPLE OF COMBINING THE OLD, THE MIDDLE-AGED AND THE YOUNG." A CHANGE IN THE ARTICLES OF THIS ORGANIZATIONAL CHAPTER WHICH NOW PROVIDES THAT "PARTY COMMITTEES OR LEADING PARTY GROUPS MAY BE SET UP IN STATE ORGANS AND POPULAR ORGANIZATIONS" MAY MERIT FURTHER EXAMINATION.
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